

**COMMISSION ON AGING AND DISABLED
REGULAR MEETING**

FEBRUARY 4, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Brecher
William DeMaio
Tillie DeMaio
Patricia Hanbury
Patricia Murray
Eunice Scharr

STAFF

Dianne Stone
Eleanor Eichner
Gail Whitney

ABSENT

Lesley Hodas
Jerilyn Nagel

ALSO PRESENT

Myra Cohen

I. CALL TO ORDER

Karen Brecher called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Myra Cohen reported that the Town's Planning and Zoning Commission (TPZ) is still discussing the in-law apartments and have not come to a decision on this issue. She also reported that New Samaritan has received the HUD funds for the housing project. She reminded everyone that there is 20 days until the special election on the referendum.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: William DeMaio made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 3, 2008, Eunice Scharr seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 3, 2008 was unanimously approved with a 6-0 vote.

V. STAFF REPORT

Dianne reported that in her time at the Center this is the first winter that has had such an impact with delays, closing early, cancelled programs, Dial-A-Ride, etc. January programs included a showing of a special movie entitled “Young At Heart” which was very well received; Essential Oral Care; Thyroid Disease; and a volunteer social held on January 23rd. February programs are listed in this month’s newsletter. Dianne reported that the Center is now completely recarpeted and painting has taken place in various offices. The next project being reviewed is updating the cafeteria that has recently received new chairs. An update on accounts included: the coffee shop breaks even; gift shop \$11,000, and donation \$26,500.

The accreditation process is wrapping up and the self-assessment has just been completed. On February 11th at 10:30 AM the peer reviewer from Rochester, Massachusetts will be in to conduct the review. Dianne asked the Commission to approve monies from the donation account for this peer reviewer. **MOTION: Pat Hanbury made a motion to allocate up to \$2,000 to cover the fees for the self-assessment peer reviewer, Pat Murray seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.** Dianne explained that one of the main recommendations of this self-assessment is community outreach. The new Information and Referral Center has been doing a wonderful job with providing information for individuals, however more community outreach is needed. The Chamber’s Home and Business Showcase is a perfect venue for this community outreach. The cost for a booth for this event is \$225 and Dianne asked the Commission about allocating monies to purchase a booth. **MOTION: Eunice Scharr made a motion to allocate \$225 for the purchase of a booth at the Chamber’s Home and Business Showcase, Pat Hanbury seconded the motion, and the motion passed with a 5-1 vote.** Dianne told the Board that the National Council on Aging’s annual conference is scheduled for March; she has asked the Town to offset some of the cost of this conference but she still needs additional funding to attend. **MOTION: Eunice Scharr made a motion to allocate up to \$1,000 to allow Dianne Stone to attend the National Council on Aging conference in March, William DeMaio seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously with a 6-0 vote.**

VI. REPORT OF HUMAN SERVICES

MOTION: William DeMaio made a motion to accept the monthly Report of Human Services for the months of December and January, Tillie DeMaio seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion was passed with a 6-0 vote.

VII. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY

Diana Robino was not in attendance.

VIII. SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Pat Hanbury reported that Dianne presented her staff report this morning to the Committee, along with updates from the subcommittees. The Committee also discussed the very exciting programs that the Center is offering for the month of February. Pat also reported that the Community Police Officer from the Newington Police Department has indicated that he will make his presence more known in the Center. They also discussed a self-defense program, and a grant funded six week program on chronic diseases for 55 and older individuals.

IX. CLUB UPDATES

There was no one in attendance.

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. Housing

Dianne reiterated Myra's earlier comments that New Samaritan has received approval for the HUD funding. The Town will now be applying for a small cities block grant that will assist in the removal of Channel 14 and the Newington Art League building.

B. Strategic Plan

Dianne distributed to the Commission a copy of the key recommendations and the outreach plan. She once again spoke about the meeting scheduled for February 11th at 10:30 AM and encouraged Commission members to attend. The notebook was submitted to the national office for approval and Dianne received a very nice email stating that this notebook was very well prepared, concisely written, and had an overall wonderful appearance.

C. Senior Housing – Accessory Apartments

Dianne reiterated Myra's earlier comments that the TPZ is still discussing this issue. Members of the Commission attended the public hearing and spoke in favor of these accessory apartments.

D. Self-Assessment

Dianne reported on this during her Staff Report.

E. Dial-A-Ride

The Governor's budget shows that the expanded out-of-town medical appointments be eliminated. This service is very much needed and Dianne indicated this to the Town Manager that it should be placed in the Center's budget.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. HOUSING AUTHORITY

Dianne spoke with Steve Karp who indicated he could not attend this evening, however he would like to attend the Commission's March meeting and bring with him the Housing Authority's newly appointed executive director.

B. ELECTIONS

MOTION: Tillie DeMaio made a motion to table the Elections to the March meeting as two Commissioners were not in attendance this evening, William DeMaio seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Bill spoke about an opportunity through the New Britain Parks and Recreation Department for seniors to play at the Stanley Golf Course. He indicated there is a policy change that out-of-town seniors can purchase a season pass for \$410 which allows them to play golf Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. He asked Dianne to get the word out to Center members about this opportunity.

XII. AGENDA FOR MARCH MEETING

Remove Self-Assessment.

XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The State of the Town is scheduled for Thursday, February 12th at 7:45 AM at Newington High School.

Myra commented that the Central Health District has a lot of programs for seniors. Dianne indicated that this is another benefit for the community outreach to let seniors know about these programs.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: William DeMaio made a motion to adjourn, Tillie DeMaio seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion was unanimously passed with a 6-0 vote at 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Whitney, Commission Clerk